

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 562 (Senator Colburn)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Equine Activities - Immunity from Civil Liability**

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This bill provides that, with specified exceptions, an “equine activity sponsor” or an “equine professional” shall not be liable for injuries that are suffered by a participant in an equine activity and result from an inherent risk of equine activity. An equine professional must post a warning notice in a clearly visible location of the inherent risks of the equine activity and the limitations on the liability of the equine professional. The notice must also be stated in each contract entered into by an equine professional to provide services, equipment, tack, or an equine to a participant in an equine activity.

“Equine activity sponsor” is defined as a person that provides money or facilities for or organizes an equine activity. “Equine professional” is defined as a person who instructs a participant in an equine activity, rents equipment or tack to a participant in an equine activity, or rents or allows the use without compensation of an equine to a participant for riding, driving, or being a passenger on the equine.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** To the extent that units of State government or State employees qualify as “equine activity sponsors” or “equine professionals,” the bill could reduce the State’s liability exposure.

**Local Effect:** To the extent that units of local government or local government employees qualify as “equine activity sponsors” or “equine professionals,” the bill could reduce the liability exposure of local governments.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. Equine activity sponsors and equine professionals could benefit from the bill's limitation of their liability if warning notices are posted and the bill's other requirements are complied with.

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## **Analysis**

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** The Maryland Horse Industry Board advises that it currently licenses approximately 358 stables in the State.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced during the 1995 session as HB 1076. That bill received an unfavorable report from the Judiciary Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – February 26, 2001  
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